

Written Testimony in Support of H-5473

To the Members of House Finance:

My name is Zara Salmon, and I am writing as a concerned Rhode Islander in strong support of H-5473, legislation introduced by Rep. Karen Alzate and Sen. Melissa Murray to moderately increase taxes on the top 1% of income earners in our state.

This bill is a reasonable, moral, and fiscally responsible step toward creating a Rhode Island where everyone — not just the wealthiest — can thrive. With so many families struggling to meet basic needs, we cannot afford to balance the state budget through cuts to critical programs. Instead, we must raise revenue in a way that reflects our shared values of equity and justice.

H-5473 would generate \$190 million in sustainable annual revenue by applying a modest 3% surtax on income over \$625,000 — a policy that would affect only 1% of Rhode Island tax filers. These funds could support vital public investments in childcare, education, healthcare, transportation, and infrastructure, improving the quality of life for millions of residents.

This is not just about numbers; it's about priorities. I urge you to put people first. Pass H-5473/S-329 and commit to a fairer, stronger Rhode Island for all.

Sincerely,
Zara Salmon
Pawtucket, RI